

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-30

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DRAFTED BY H:SDANDERSON/MV

APPROVED BY H:LHOLTON

S - LSEAGLEBURGER

S/S- MR. GAMMON

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL ACAPULCO IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 069302

EXDIS TOSEC 135

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)

SUBJECT:RUNDOWN ON MASF VOTE IN THE HOUSE

TO SECRETARY FROM HOLTON

SUMMARY: THE HOUSE LATE LAST NIGHT DEFEATED AN ATTEMPT TO AUTHORIZE AN INCREASE IN THE CEILING LEVEL FOR MASF AND THE NET RESULT WAS THAT THE SUPPLEMENTAL AUTHORIZATION PASSED BY THE HOUSE WILL NOT PROVIDE ANY ADDITIONAL INCREASE IN THE MASF FUNDING LEVELS.

1. THE HOUSE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE IN THE DEFENSE SUPPLEMENTAL REPORTED OUT AN AUTHORIZATION BILL WHICH WOULD HAVE RAISED THE MASF CEILING TO \$ \$1.6 BILLION. WHEN THE BILL GOT TO THE FLOOR YESTERDAY, CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS INCLUDING HEBERT AND RHODES AND THE WHITE HOUSE LEGISLATIVE OFFICE CONCLUDED THAT THE VOTES WERE NOT AVAILABLE TO PASS THE BILL AT THE \$1.6 BILLION LEVEL. CONSEQUENTLY, HEBERT ATTEMPTED TO SPONSOR AN AMENDMENT LOWERING THE INCREASE TO \$1.4 BILLION. THIS AMENDMENT WAS DEFEATED 177 TO 154. AS A RESULT THERE WAS NO NEW AUTHORIZATION FOR MASF FUNDING AND THE LEVEL STILL
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REMAINS AT THE \$1.126 BILLION.

2. TWO DAYS AGO THE SENATE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE REPORTED OUT THE DEFENSE SUPPLEMENTAL AUTHORIZATION WITHOUT ANY DIRECT INCREASE IN THE MASF CEILING. WHAT THEY DID DO HOWEVER WAS TO ALLOW THE DEFENSE DEPARTMENT TO CHARGE \$266 MILLION AGAINST A DIFFERENT ACCOUNT WHICH IN ESSENCE ALLOWS \$266 MILLION MORE TO BE SPENT IN THE MASF ACCOUNT IN FY 74.

3. OUR PRELIMINARY ANALYSIS IS THAT THERE IS LITTLE LEGISLATIVE PROSPECT TO NOW INCREASE THE MASF AUTHORIZA-

TION CEILING LEVELS AND THAT THE BEST COURSE OF ACTION IS TO SEEK IN CONFERENCE HOUSE ADOPTION OF THE SENATE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE VERSION WHICH ALLOWS THE ADDITION OF \$266 FOR THE MASF ACCOUNT FOR FY 74. RUSH

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